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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

RYUJI ISHIGURO, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: LAFORGIA, C. A.

SERIAL NO: 09/576,621

FILED: MAY 23, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2131

FOR: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD, AND

PROCESSING METHOD, 12 D

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.